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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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July 11, 1953

CHANCELLOR RAAB REPORTS ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS. At the end of June, Chancellor Julius Raab of Austria opened the Wiener Neustadt Exhibition which presented a brief survey of economic developments during the past two and a half months.

Chancellor Raab said that the matter of primary concern at the present time was the reactivation of investment activities in order to reduce the level of unemployment. He reminded his audience of the Swiss loan for the modernization and expansion of the telephone network, of the bank loan for the rehabilitation of the state theaters and of the power loan which, on the basis of the latest reports, promised to be a great success. He also announced that the Austrian Government had applied to the World Bank for a loan which would be earmarked for the further expansion of the country's hydroelectric power plants and that every effort was being made to obtain the earliest possible release of counterpart funds. To increase the volume of exports, the Government had proposed and Parliament had approved the new Foreign Trade Act and Export Promotion Act. The recent Tax Revision Act would be followed in the fall by legislation to overhaul and simplify the entire tax structure. It would remedy some of the inequities of the present system of progressive rates which labor was finding unbearable and would simplify tax settlements in general.

Increased Productivity is Primary Goal

In connection with the problem of productivity, Chancellor Raab said: "Industry knows best how to increase its productivity and we must not fetter it with controls. But without increased efficiency and greater performance there can be no increased productivity. The funds allocated for the purpose of raising productivity benefit every single enterprise and each is fully responsible for their proper use.

"The Federal Government," the Austrian Chancellor stated, "would continue to do everything in its power, especially during the fall months, to create investment possibilities, in order to prevent any increase in unemployment. It will try to create employment in precisely those fields where unemployment is especially high."

FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER VISITED PRIME MINISTER NEHRU IN SWITZERLAND. On June 19, Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber flew to Switzerland where he visited Prime Minister Nehru of India. The two statesmen discussed economic as well as political questions because India has expressed the desire to establish close trade relations with Austria.

(Continued on page 2)

VICE CHANCELLOR SCHAERF DISCUSSES OCCUPATION POLICY. In one of the broadcasts of the radio series, "This is Everybody's Business," at the end of June, Austrian Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf discussed the current program and policies of the new Austrian Government.

He said, in part: "A striking development in Austria's public life has been a number of activities and moves relative to the Austrian State Treaty. The Government of the Soviet Union did not accept the invitation of the Western Powers to continue the treaty negotiations, but it has issued several surprising decrees in its zone of occupation in Austria which would appear to indicate that a less rigid occupation regime was in the offing.

"The removal of permanent controls at the line of demarcation, however, is of much less import than the freedom of movement authorized by the Western Powers several years ago. But the Austrian people are eager to live in peace not only with their foreign neighbors but above all with the foreign powers in their own house."

Pays Tribute to Austria's Exemplary Stability

"The brightening of the political horizon," Dr. Schaerf continued, "was all the more gratifying because it seemed to be connected with a change in the political climate of the Russian-occupied part of Germany. But there the promised easing of Government rule and of the occupation regime have led to a revolutionary strike movement, which finally had to be suppressed by force of arms. I honestly hope that from the darkened sky of Eastern Germany no thunderclouds will move to Austria.

"The international situation is sad enough as it is. Under these circumstances, Austria must appear as a country of almost exemplary stability to the outside observer. The important congresses which have been held in Vienna have brought thousands of people from many countries to Austria, and here they were able to see for themselves how a freedom-loving nation gets along with its occupiers who have still not granted it its long-promised independence."

WE WELCOME ANY METHOD WHICH WILL LEAD TO AN UNDERSTANDING - GRUBER. The Austrian Special News Service recently reported that on the occasion of a speech he delivered at a Farm Conference in Bruck-an-der-Leitha, in Lower Austria, Foreign Minister Karl Gruber spoke of the Soviet Union's attitude toward the State Treaty and of the international problems connected with it, particularly the German question.

Dr. Gruber said that Russia was desirous of reaching an

overall settlement on all issues and that in this connection Moscow was apparently attaching primary importance to the question of Germany's defense contribution. "Outside of the Soviet Union, the consecutive settlement of one issue after another is regarded as a more realistic procedure. As far as we are concerned, we welcome any method which will lead to an understanding. But there is serious doubt whether tangible results are possible if one is not prepared to tackle international differences according to their degree of difficulty and timeliness."

Hostility Toward Neighbors Not to be Price for Acceptance by Communist World

The Austrian Foreign Minister went on to say: "I should like to make it clear that we shall not pay the price of acceptance by the Communist world if it means committing ourselves to a policy of permanent hostility toward any of our neighbors or trade partners."

"The latest developments in Germany have shown that highly explosive forces are pent up in that country. The advantage of our position is also clear now to the great powers, for here they can liquidate their position without the danger of an explosion and without any of them having to suffer any loss of prestige. The progressive improvement of Austria's internal situation is therefore just as much in the interest of the great powers as it is in the interest of the Austrian people."

MOSCOW AMNESTIES 600 AUSTRIAN PRISONERS. "Die Presse" recently reported that on June 27, 1953, the Soviet Foreign Office handed the Austrian Ambassador in Moscow a note informing him that 600 Austrians, including war prisoners who had been sentenced for various offenses and civilians, had been pardoned. The note also stated that the released Austrians would be transported to Wiener Neustadt and there handed over to the Austrian Government on July 1.

Chancellor Raab of Austria expressed the thanks of his Government to the new Soviet civilian High Commissioner when he met him for the first time shortly thereafter.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ILYICHOV PRESENTS CREDENTIALS. On June 25, the newly appointed Soviet Ambassador to Austria, Ivan Ivanovich Ilyichov, accompanied by departing Soviet Chargé d'Affaires A.M. Timochenko, paid his first official call on Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber. Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Undersecretary in the Austrian Foreign Office was present at the meeting.

On June 26, Ambassador Ilyichov presented his credentials to President Koerner. On the occasion of his presentation to the Austrian Chief of State, the new Soviet Ambassador declared: "As I present my credentials to you, I wish to assure you, Mr. President, that I shall make every effort to strengthen and develop the friendly relations between the Austrian and Soviet peoples and to promote increased cooperation between our two countries."

AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER PRAISES PEOPLE'S FIRMNESS IN 'COLD WAR'. In the course of a speech delivered late in June at a Socialist youth rally in Scheibbs, Austrian Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer declared: "Austrians — especially the workers and white-collar employees — have proved to the world during the trying years of the 'Cold War' that they cannot be intimidated by arbitrary actions and threats nor seduced by sweet gifts to give up their staunch support of the oppressed."

The Minister went on to say: "In Berlin the uprising of the East German workers was crushed with the aid of Soviet tanks. This ignominy will live on, and no amount of white-washing on the part of the traitors will be able to erase the infamy. History has taught us that a regime can maintain itself neither with bayonets nor with the tanks of foreign intruders. Once the stone of injustice begins to roll, the totalitarian state and its rule against the people are doomed."

Minister Helmer took cognizance of the fact that Austria was forced to lead a different life than rich nations, but added that her pride and self-consciousness were not any the less because of it. In closing, the Minister said: "We serve our country with love and devotion and reject any attempt to make us the proponents of foreign interests."

FURTHER SHIFTS IN AUSTRIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS. It was recently reported that, as a result of new appointments to major diplomatic posts, there have been a number of shifts in Austrian foreign service personnel (see AUSTRIAN INFORMATION bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 11 of June 13, 1953). The following new assignments have just been announced:

Minister Nikolaus Schleinitz-Prokesch has been appointed head of the Austrian Legation in Bern. Dr. Karl Braunias, heretofore Minister in Belgrade, now takes over the Legal Department of the Austrian Foreign Office. Dr. Walter Wodak, the Counselor of Legation at the Austrian Embassy in Paris, has been transferred to Belgrade, where he will be Austria's new Minister. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary Clemens Wildner, head of the Foreign Office Political Department, has been appointed Minister to Cairo. He replaces Dr. Robert Friedinger-Pranter, who is returning to Vienna to head the Protocol Section of the Foreign Office at the Federal Chancellery. Dr. Heinrich Haymerle, who holds the title of Councillor of Legation and has hitherto been in charge of the Protocol Section, has been assigned to the United Nations where he will be the Austrian Observer. Councillor of Legation Dr. Franz Matsch, who has been filling this post until now, will return home to take over the Department for International Organizations and Cultural Affairs at the Austrian Foreign Office.

Gruber visits Nehru (cont'd. from p. 1)

Commenting on the meeting, the Austrian Special News Service reports: "Well-informed political quarters in Vienna are stressing the special significance of Dr. Gruber's meeting with Mr. Nehru in view of the present international situation. The meeting of the two statesmen is being hailed because India is one of the powers which are not responsible for the tensions that are straining international relations."

AUSTRIA 75-80% SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FARM PRODUCTS.

Economic Councilor Franz Thoma, Austrian Minister of Agriculture, recently told the Austrian Special News Service that "Austria's domestic farm output now covers 75-80% of consumer needs."

He added that at the present time only grain and fodder were being imported. "The importation of other agricultural products is now being effected on the required scale through normal trade channels. So far as farm products are concerned, Austria will be fully self-sufficient in the foreseeable future."

"During the past year we have succeeded in raising domestic production of bread grain by some 100,000 tons, and between 1946 and 1952 the output of milk has jumped from 300,000,000 liters to one billion liters. For the first time, we have also managed to meet our cattle requirements from our own livestock."

Minister Thoma concluded by saying: "Our most urgent goal is to increase production to the point where our domestic demand will be fully covered, and to compensate for production highs and lows by appropriate storage, export and import measures. If we wish (Austrian) agriculture to continue to expand, we must give it every opportunity to do so."

LARGE VOTE POLLED BY SOUTH TYROL PEOPLE'S PARTY SAID TO STRENGTHEN PARIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITALY AND AUSTRIA.

According to a recent Austrian Special News Service report, the results of the Italian parliamentary elections in the South Tyrol showed that the population of that area strongly supports the South Tyrolean People's Party. One of the major planks of this party calls for the execution and strengthening of the Paris Agreement concluded between Italy and Austria in 1946 to preserve "the ethnological character and the cultural and economic development of the German-speaking population" of the South Tyrol.

Of a total valid vote of 197,535 cast in the province of Bolzano (South Tyrol), the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP) received 118,412, or 9,824 more votes than in the general elections of 1949 and 5,805 more votes than in the regional elections of 1952. An interesting sidelight of the election returns is that the SVP was the only party of the government coalition group of center parties in the entire country to have maintained its number of mandates.

The SVP is entitled to three seats in Parliament. In the senatorial elections, the party was able to win both seats for the electoral districts of Brixen and Bolzano/Merano.

WESTERN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA LIFT RECIPROCAL VISA REQUIREMENTS.

It was recently announced that after July 1, 1953, Austrian nationals travelling to the German Federal Republic no longer required an entry visa. A valid passport is the only document now needed for such travel.

Until overall arrangements are completed, travellers from Western Germany entering the Western provinces of Austria are being given a limited duration entry visum at all authorized border crossing points.

REORGANIZATION OF AUSTRIAN BROADCASTING FACILITIES DISCUSSED.

The People's Party News Service recently reported that representatives of all Austrian radio networks have been discussing a major reorganization of the country's broadcasting set-up.

Present plans call for giving Radio Vienna, the Red-White-Red network and the provincial stations a legal status in order to bring some measure of order to the jurisdictional chaos that has plagued the Austrian radio industry ever since the question of former "German assets" was raised.

Problem of Nationalization Considered

The main problem requiring clarification at the present time is whether the radio stations should be nationalized or not. In this connection consultations are now being held between the Austrian Ministries of Finance and Trade on the American promise to turn the Red-White-Red network over to Austria. The result of these talks will be incorporated into a radio bill to be submitted to Parliament. Independently of this, conversations are being held with the Soviet occupation authorities in an attempt to get the Russians to give up their programming control of station Vienna II.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES 50 BILLS AS END OF SUMMER SESSION DRAWS NEAR.

At its meeting of June 25 the Austrian Nationalrat (Lower Chamber of Parliament) took up a number of bills and enacted various legislation, including the University Fee Statute, the federal laws amending the Salary Readjustment Act and the 3rd Treasury Bill Act, and the 4th Rider to the Children's Aid Law.

Before the summer session draws to a close an additional fifty federal and private bills are expected to be cleared. The Judiciary Committee will discuss amendments to proposed legislation relating to the abrogation of homestead and farm management rights.

Dr. Ernst Kolb, the Austrian Minister of Education, made the following comment on the proposed introduction of a ninth school year: "I am not in a position nor have I ever proposed to submit a bill to Parliament at an early date on the introduction of a ninth school year." He added that such a measure would reflect an educational policy of extraordinarily far-reaching significance in terms of educational, social, political and financial considerations. The significance of the measure could be fully evaluated only within the framework of new and comprehensive school and educational legislation.

PROGRAM OF THIRD AUSTRIAN TRADE-UNION CONVENTION ANNOUNCED.

The Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (AFTU) recently announced that the organization would celebrate its 60th anniversary by a mass labor rally and convention during the week from August 30 to September 6, 1953. Invitations to send representatives to the anniversary rally have been extended to many member organizations of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), to the ICFTU itself and to the Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

The program of the week-long festivities will be ushered

in on August 29 with the unveiling of a bust of Anton Hueber, the well-known pioneer of Austrian trade-union unity. On the evenings of August 31 through September 4, an international discussion will be held on the general theme, "The Free Worker in the Free World." The other evenings will be devoted to the following subjects: The Free Worker in a Democracy, Workers' Co-determination in a Democracy, Economic Systems in the Free World, Social Policies in the Free World, and Cultural Problems.

Outstanding Speakers Scheduled

A number of outstanding speakers have been scheduled to address the meeting, including Professor Reuther of Germany, Hugh Gaitskell of Great Britain, Professor Roepke of Switzerland, AFTU President Johann Boehm and AFTU Vice President Erwin Altenburger.

On September 5, thousands of trade-union members from all over Austria will converge on Vienna for the festive parade. The floats and banners in the parade will depict labor's progress from the days of antiquity, through the Middle Ages and the Industrial Revolution, through wars and depressions, up to the present age of democracy and social achievement. The role of the trade unions in this development will be illustrated.

The "Trade Union Commission of Austria" was founded in the year 1893 as the first step toward Austrian trade-union federation. The Trade-Union Commission is rightly considered the forerunner of today's Austrian Federation of Trade Unions. It was also in the 1890's that the first Christian trade unions were formed.

FAR-REACHING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS WITH E.R.P. FUNDS.

The Austrian Special News Service recently reported that the following sums have been released from E.R.P. Counterpart Funds for investment purposes: 544,000,000 schillings in 1949; 1,233,000,000 schillings in 1950; 2,105,000,000 schillings in 1951; and 1,297,000,000 schillings in 1952. The total amount made available for investment financing in the course of these four years is thus 5,179,000,000 schillings.

The largest proportion of this capital, i.e. 1,867,000,000 schillings, was allocated to the power industry for the expansion of hydroelectric plant facilities. The amount earmarked for the repair of war damages and dismantling losses, and for the reconversion of the iron and steel industry to peace-time production, totalled 964,000,000 schillings. The paper industry, after the investment of 715,000,000 schillings from E.R.P. funds and considerable capital of its own, is today among the most modern and most efficient industries of its kind anywhere in the world.

Import Savings and Increased Export Capacity Expected

The guiding principle on the basis of which these investment funds were allocated is aimed at achieving a saving in imports or an increase in export capacity, in order to improve Austria's balance of payments.

Rationalization of production methods in the coal mining industry required an investment of 318,000,000 schillings. The metal-working industry was able to recover its conversion investments owing to the allocation of 274,000,000

schillings in E.R.P. funds. The investment of 243,000,000 schillings in the textile industry had the two-fold purpose of modernizing plant equipment in existing mills and broadening the industry's scope by establishing plants for new products. The wood-working industry received 158,000,000 schillings for plant modernization and the establishment of factories which could successfully compete abroad. The nonferrous metal-working industry and the chemical industry received 177,000,000 and 208,000,000 schillings respectively.

SALE OF POWER LOAN BONDS YIELDS 320,000,000 SCHILLINGS TO DATE.

It was announced at the end of June that the sale of bonds for the Austrian Power Loan (see AUSTRIAN INFORMATION bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 10 of May 23, 1953) has so far yielded 320,000,000 schillings. In connection with the announcement, Dr. Stahl, the Director of the national power combine, said at a press conference that "substantial additional sales were in prospect and that the above sum does not include company subscriptions, which amount to some two million schillings."

The loan has met with particularly keen interest in labor circles. For the smaller bonds individual subscriptions have been ranging from 400 to 1800 schillings. This reflects the people's will to save as well as their desire to protect jobs by subscribing to the power loan.

Promotion Campaign Largely Responsible for Success

Minister of Finance Kamitz has announced that the original deadline of June 30 for subscribing to the loan was extended for 14 days, and that the Government had decided to take this action because the promotion campaign had gotten rolling only at a late date, and it would have been unfair to exclude from participation any segments of the population where the desire to subscribe had become manifest only later, for everyone was to be given opportunity to make the deadline.

Moreover, the pay offices of large corporations had complained that they would have had to close their books by June 23 if the original deadline were maintained. "Die Presse" recently commented that the power loan had, in its special way, covered new ground and was showing every sign of living up to all expectations.

BLOCKED SCHILLING ACCOUNTS OPENED FOR POWER LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It was recently announced that the Austrian Ministry of Finance and the Austrian National Bank have granted foreign owners of blocked Austrian schilling accounts authorization to use any funds blocked as of June 1, 1953, for subscribing to the power loan. The Austrian National Bank is also prepared to authorize the conversion into foreign exchange and the transfer of the interest earned on such bonds to the foreign bondholder.

AUSTRIA TO REQUEST LOAN FROM INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR EXPANSION OF HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES.

Pursuant to a report by Austrian Minister of Finance Reinhard Kamitz, the Austrian Cabinet decided to request the International Bank for Reconstruction and Economic Development in Washington for a loan to be used to continue construction on the Reisseck-Kreuzneck power station.

FOREIGN INVESTORS SUBSCRIBE TO AUSTRIAN POWER LOAN.

At the end of June, the Mayor of Amsterdam, Dr. Arnold d'Ailly, who recently attended the Congress of the International Union of Cities in Vienna, bought a number of Austrian Power Loan bonds at one of the city's credit institutes. Dr. d'Ailly said that it was a "splendid idea" to allow the entire population to have a share in the construction of these "fountains of their future welfare." He expressed the opinion that Austria's example was worthy of being emulated in the Netherlands, adding that he would present a detailed report on the subject upon his return home. Dr. Arnold d'Ailly subscribed for a substantial amount.

AUSTRIAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY.

On June 6 of this year the Austrian cooperative movement opened a Jubilee Conference in Salzburg on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Union of Austrian Cooperatives. Federal Councillor Lakowitsch, the Chairman of the Union, was on hand to welcome many eminent men from the political and business worlds, as well as a number of foreign leaders in the cooperative field and officials of building and loan associations in the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy. The main questions discussed at the conference were the credit system used by cooperatives and plans for the exchange of experience and personnel between the cooperatives of the various countries.

SECOND CARINTHIAN FAIR TO BE HELD FROM AUGUST 6 TO 16.

The Second Carinthian Fair will be held this year from August 6 to 16 in the Carinthian state capital of Klagenfurt. The extensive commercial, industrial, handicraft, agricultural and forestry exhibits will feature the products of a large number of Austrian firms as well as those of many exhibitors from Italy, Yugoslavia and Western Germany. There will be a special exhibit organized by the wood industry which is already attracting considerable interest.

68 AUSTRIAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN TORONTO TRADE FAIR.

All of the 68 Austrian companies present at the Toronto Trade Fair from June 1 to 12 have expressed their satisfaction at the results achieved, and most of them have decided to participate again next year. For some of the firms, especially those which have hitherto had limited experience with the American and Canadian markets, the fair afforded an opportunity to study the individual wishes of the consumers of this hemisphere, with the result that next year's exhibits will undoubtedly feature many more items of interest to them. A substantial number of initial orders, valued at approximately \$500,000, have been received. Considering the number of sizable orders still pending and the number of additional follow-up orders definitely expected, it can be said that substantial business will materialize as a direct result of the Toronto Fair. In fact, many Austrian products hitherto not widely known in this country and Canada will be available shortly. Included among the new items which will be exported to this continent for the first time are such articles as wood-working machinery, a new type of dictaphone, a revolutionary zipp fastener with plastic beads instead of the conventional teeth, and microphones which

are offered at such competitive prices that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has ordered substantial numbers of them. Such well-established Austrian products as ceramics, blouses, knitted goods, costume jewelry, smokers' articles, stainless steel ware etc. met with great favor on the part of many buyers who visited the Toronto Fair.

AUSTRIA TO PARTICIPATE IN 1954 SAO PAULO INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

In 1954 Austrian manufacturers will exhibit their products for the first time in South America at the International Industrial Exhibition in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as part of a collective exhibit organized by the Austrian Institute for Economic Promotion of the Federal Chamber of Commerce.

The Industrial Exhibition in Sao Paulo, which will be held from July 1 to September 30 on the occasion of the city's quadricentennial in 1954, will have the character of a World Fair and will present a cross section of the industrial and handicraft production of all countries.

MODERNIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION PRACTICE IN VIENNA.

Vienna Municipal Housing Commissioner Boeck recently told the Austrian Special News Service that construction practice in Vienna was being radically modernized, and that "Randverbauung" (use of all four sides of the block - Ed.) had given way to "Zeilenverbauung" (entrances on East-West sides only - Ed.).

The average floor space in the new buildings is 520 sq. ft. Five types of apartments are provided, from one to five rooms. This year, 16.8% of the municipal budget, or about 481,000,000 schillings, is being allocated to housing. Financing under the municipal budget reduces rentals practically to the cost of maintenance.

36,000 Dwelling Units Bombed Out in Vienna

The Commissioner added that between 1923 and 1934, the Vienna Municipality had erected 64,000 dwelling units not exceeding 30% ground area and providing incidence of sunlight at 45 degrees. The dwelling facilities destroyed in Vienna during the war were equivalent to a city of 360,000. About 36,000 dwelling units were totally destroyed by bombs. In addition to reconstruction of dwellings under the Reconstruction Fund, the Vienna Municipality has built 17,201 entirely new dwellings since 1946, with another 11,069 to become available in 1953.

NEW AUSTRIAN UPHOLSTERING MATERIAL ON THE MARKET.

A new Austrian upholstering material for car and bus seats has just been put on the market under the trade-name "Perfektyl." The high-quality material consists of a plastic-coated fabric which is joined to the underlying seat material in such a manner that it cannot be detached, thus making it extraordinarily resistant to tearing and remarkably durable. Perfektyl plastic fabric is washable and water-tight, as well as shockproof and scratchproof. Moreover, the material is endowed with a high resistance to aging, since it does not dry out and does not change even after protracted use. Perfektyl plastic fabric is heat- and cold-resistant and can be easily worked thanks to its pliability and color fastness.

ALPINE MONTANGESELLSCHAFT CLOSES TWENTY-MILLION SCHILLING SALE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. According to a recent report from Johannesburg, South Africa, the Austrian Alpine Montan Corporation has just signed a substantial supply contract with the South African State Railways, after several weeks of direct negotiations. The transaction will cover the supply by Alpine Montan of 8000 tons of rails with a value of 270,000 pounds, or 20,000,000 schillings.

AUSTRIA PRODUCED 11,000 HUNTING GUNS IN 1952. Austria's output of hunting guns in 1952 was considerably higher than in 1951, total production amounting to 11,000 pieces. Of this total, 3,000 were shotguns and combined hunting pieces, 4,800 repeater and other rifles, and some 3,100 small-caliber firearms. Ninety per cent of this output was exported, mainly to the United States and Western Germany. Other markets were France, Italy, and the countries of the Near and Far East.

Austria manufactures only hunting guns. Firearms for military use cannot be made, as even the production of pistols or parts for military weapons is prohibited.

NOVEL SHOCK-ABSORBING BUMPER FOR MOTOR VEHICLES INVENTED IN AUSTRIA. A Viennese engineer recently discovered a novel device designed to prevent serious accidents and minimize damages in motor vehicle collisions. The invention consists of a deflection device for bumpers affixed to the sides of the vehicle body. Especially shaped rollers made of suitable material are provided for all vulnerable parts of the vehicle, i.e. primarily the sides, and serve as shock-absorbers. The novel device acts as a slide rail.

MISS AUSTRIA PARTICIPATES IN MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST. Pan-American Airways reported that the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant will be held in Long Beach from July 9 to 19. Twenty countries, including Austria, have so far selected their Miss Universe representative.

NEW CABLE RAILWAYS PLANNED IN THE ARLBERG REGION. The Austrian Special News Service recently reported that the world-famous ski center of St. Anton-am-Arlberg is planning to construct a number of cable railways which will make the peaks of the Arlberg range more accessible to skiers and tourists.

Construction is soon to begin on a cable line which will lead from the mountain station of the Galzig line (7200 ft.) to the Valluga. The mountain station of the new line will be built at an altitude of more than 8500 ft. The line has already been charted and measured, and the entire project commissioned and financed. It is estimated that the line will take approximately two years to complete and that the final cost will come to about 9,000,000 schillings. The railway is to be equipped with cabin cars holding 10 passengers, which will climb at a speed of 23 ft. per second.

This year work will also begin on a double chair lift which, in two stages, will lead from St. Anton to the Gampen (6080 ft.) and from there to the SCA peak (7630 ft.). Later, a cable line might be built from the SCA peak to the Schindler peak, which, with the lifts in Zeurs, St. Christoph and Lech, would make the entire Arlberg range accessible.

"ZELL-AM-SEE BLUE RIBBON" TROPHY ESTABLISHED FOR GLIDERS. The Austrian Aero Club recently announced that it has put up a challenge trophy to be known as the "Blue Ribbon of Zell-am-See". The trophy consists of a hand-carved ornamental plate which will remain in the possession of the winner for one year.

The "Zell-am-See Blue Ribbon" trophy will be awarded to the flier who, during the flight season from March 1 to September 30, achieves the fastest glider flight from any Swiss starting point to the glider landing field of the Zell-am-See Alpine Glider School. The competition will be open to any single-seater or multi-seater glider. Together with the trophy, the annual winner will also receive an invitation to spend two weeks free of charge at the Alpine Glider School in Zell-am-See.

1952 TOURIST TRADE BROUGHT AUSTRIA 806 MILLION SCHILLINGS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. In 1952, foreign tourists in Austria spent the foreign-exchange equivalent of 806 million schillings, the Austrian Federal Chamber of Trade and Industry recently announced. This figure reflects the rapid expansion of tourism in Austria, which only five years ago brought in the modest sum of 9.5 million schillings in foreign exchange. The foreign exchange Austria earned from tourists in 1952 covered more than two thirds of her trade balance deficit.

TRAVELERS VISITING AUSTRIA CAN NOW BRING IN UP TO 5,000 SCHILLINGS. As of June 21, 1953, every tourist entering Austria was authorized to bring up to 5,000 schillings with him. The amount previously permitted was 1,000 schillings. Any amounts in excess of 1,000 schillings will still have to be declared upon entering the country, so as to assure the traveler of their free reexport.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

VIENNA ACADEMY CHORUS TO TOUR UNITED STATES. The Vienna Academy Chorus and its conductor, Professor Ferdinand Grossmann, have signed an engagement contract with Andre Mertens, Director of Columbia Artists Management, Inc., for the group's first American tour, which will last four months. The Vienna Academy Chorus is scheduled to arrive in New York on September 21, 1953, and will immediately embark on its cross-country tour, starting with New York State.

AUSTRIA "TYROLIERS" PLAN U.S. TOUR IN FALL. Clark H. Getts Inc. recently announced that the "Tyrolers," a group of native singers and dancers from the Austrian Alpine highlands, will return to the United States for a coast-to-coast tour in the fall.

The group is scheduled to arrive in New York on or about September 25. Their first appearance will be in Utica, N.Y., on October 3, and is to be followed by appearances in the Buffalo area. Other appearances are scheduled as follows: October 14 in Detroit, Mich.; October 15 in Cincinnati, Ohio; November 2 in Dallas, Texas; November 5 in Tempe, Arizona; November 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 in Los Angeles, Cal.; November 17 and 18 in San Francisco, Cal.; November 23 in Colorado Springs, Col.

From Colorado Springs the group will return East via Chicago. It is expected to sail back to Austria in mid-December.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS HELD IN VIENNA. Two hundred delegates from 26 countries attended the International Congress of Librarians held in Vienna from June 9 to 17. The program of the Congress embraced: the meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the Congress on Documentation Literature.

The symposia and papers reflected the multiplicity of questions arising not only from the relations between libraries themselves but also in connection with the exchange of experiences. The first point on the agenda dealt with public libraries.

AUSTRIA HONORS MEMORY OF BERTA VON SUTTNER.

On June 9 of this year Austria honored the memory of Berta von Suttner, the first winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who was born in Austria 110 years ago on June 9, 1843. Berta von Suttner was the daughter of Field Marshal Count Kinsky and from her earliest youth she dedicated herself to the belief that it must some day be possible to rally all nations around the same table and thus eliminate future wars. Her first book, "Die Waffen nieder!", caused a considerable stir when it was published in 1889. Even then Berta von Suttner already worked for the establishment of a world organization, such as was later achieved when the League of Nations and the United Nations were founded. It was Berta von Suttner who induced Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, to bequeath funds for the establishment of a peace prize which has since borne his name. The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1905 and it went to Berta von Suttner. She also took a very active part in woman's struggle for equal rights in political life. Austria reveres her as one of the nation's greatest daughters.

FIRST "SUB AUSPICIIS PRAESIDENTIS" DEGREE AWARDED IN VIENNA. The first degree "sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae" was recently awarded at the University of Vienna in the presence of President Theodor Koerner of Austria. Whereas in the past only a limited number of students could be awarded the Honorary Imperial Ring, today all students who meet the necessary requirements are so honored. The first "sub auspiciis imperatoris" award was made at the University of Vienna in 1661. Graz University has been entitled to this privilege since 1624 and the University of Innsbruck since 1690.

HANDEL-MAZETTI PRIZES AWARDED. The Handel-Mazetti Prizes for Literature, founded on the occasion of the 80th birthday of the poetess Enrica Handel-Mazetti, were awarded for the second time in May of this year. The Handel-Mazetti Prize of the Ministry of Education was given to Emmy Feiks-Waldhaeusl for her novel "Leben am Strom."

The Handel-Mazetti Prize of the province of Upper Austria was a joint award shared by Adalbert Welte for his novel "Der Wind saet" and Elisabeth Kraus-Kasegg for her novel "Spiegel des Jahrhunderts."

FELIX PROHASKA TO CONDUCT CONCERTS IN BUENOS AIRES. Felix Prohaska, the regular conductor of the Vienna State Opera who gave a number of concerts in Buenos Aires last year, will again conduct in the Argentine capital this season. Eight concerts are scheduled, two orchestral concerts with the Argentine State Orchestra, one concert at the "Amigos de la Musica" (Friends of Music) Society, one radio concert and four choral concerts in the "Wagneriana."

WALDMUELLER EXHIBITION OPENED IN SALZBURG.

A comprehensive exhibition of the work of Ferdinand Georg Waldmueller was opened at the Residenzgalerie in Salzburg on June 15. The exhibition will remain open until September 15. The preparation and organization of the exhibition, which is being sponsored by the State and City of Salzburg, was handled by the well-known art expert Fritz Welz of the Welz Gallery in Salzburg.

PARIS GRAND OPERA ENSEMBLE TO VISIT VIENNA IN 1954.

An ensemble of the Paris Grand Opera will visit Vienna in 1954, in return for the visit of the Vienna State Opera to Paris in May of this year, when the Vienna ensemble presented operas by Mozart and Richard Strauss. The program of the Paris Grand Opera in Vienna will include "Indes Galantes" by Jean Philippe Rameau and "Ariane et Barbe Bleue" by Paul Dukas.

JOSEF LEITGEB'S COLLECTED WORKS PUBLISHED.

The first edition of the collected works of Josef Leitgeb, the Austrian lyric poet who died in 1952, was published in May by the Otto Mueller Verlag in Salzburg. The complete anthology includes Leitgeb's "Vita somnium breve," "Laeuterungen" and "Lebenszeichen."

EXHIBITIONS IN LINZ AND EISENSTADT. The first history of art exhibit since 1945 was opened in May at the Esterhazy Castle in the Burgenland. The exhibition shows more than 100 works of art and presents a survey of artistic development in the Burgenland.

"Maerz," an association of artists in Upper Austria, is holding its first exhibition in 14 years at the New Gallery in Linz. The show contains more than 400 paintings, drawings, architectural designs, works of sculpture and applied art, and stage settings. Alfred Kubin, Rudolf Hoflehner, Vilma Eckl and Margret Bilger are among the artists represented.

BROADCAST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPENED IN VIENNA.

A radio broadcasting research institute was recently opened at the University of Vienna. Its major aim is to lay the theoretical foundations for radio broadcasting and to explore the legal, international and sociological problems connected with it.

Contact with foreign institutions in the field will be maintained through a publication entitled "Radio-Television." The President of the institution's board of trustees is Minister Ludwig and the directors of Austria's radio stations have been appointed Vice Presidents. Among the members of the board are Professors Rohrer and Schenk.

LIVELY ART SEASON IN VIENNA AS NUMEROUS EXHIBITIONS ARE HELD. The Austrian Special News Service recently reported that a number of exhibitions, such as "Der Kreis" and the Guetersloh Show, are attracting widespread attention in Viennese art circles.

"Der Kreis" is not representative of any particular trend. Its best works are those of Ferdinand Stransky. The colorful and bewitching embroideries of Hilda Sapper are also on view, as well as the paintings of Ernst Paar.

The A. P. Guetersloh Show at the Art Club Gallery is being hailed by art critics as a real "pleasure." The artist's more than thirty aquarelle miniatures, painted over a period of 28 years, have a poetic fairy-like quality. The human figures recall the daintiness of delicate marionettes. Guetersloh has expressed complex poetic moods in his unique water colors by using a technique of delicate lines and ethereal hues which, however, do not detract from the clarity of outline in his pictorial compositions.

MODERN VIENNESE TAPESTRY EXHIBITED IN GERMANY.

Johanna Schidlo and Fritz Riedl, two painters, tapestry weavers and members of the Vienna Art Club whose tapestries were exhibited at the Kunsthalle in Mannheim, Germany, last winter, have now been invited to participate in the exhibition, "Six Centuries of Tapestry," to be held in Hamburg in July. A number of their tapestries will also be shown at the "Landesgewerbemuseum" in Stuttgart from May 23 to June 10 and at the "Kunstkabinett Hanna Bekker von Rath" in Frankfurt from June 13 to 27.

VIENNA'S POPULAR ART COLLEGE EXHIBITS STUDENTS' WORK IN DUESSELDORF. A special exhibit featuring the work of some 300 students and graduates of the People's Art College of Vienna opened in Duesseeldorf, Germany, on June 28. Included among the objects on display are portraits, still-life paintings, landscapes, fashion designs, graphic art pieces, children's creations, handicraft objects and textile designs. Vienna's people's colleges were established in 1901 but the People's Art College became an independent institute only in 1947.

CRYSTAL GLASS MEMORIAL FOR "UNKNOWN MOTHER" TO BE ERECTED IN VIENNA. The sculptor Mario Petrucci, who was awarded the Medal of Honor of the City of Vienna on the occasion of his 60th birthday in April, has completed the model of a memorial sculpture to the "Unknown Mother." The memorial, to be made of flint glass by a special method invented by the artist, will be erected in one of Vienna's public gardens.

VIENNA VOLKSTHEATER ENSEMBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RUHR FESTIVAL. The Vienna Volkstheater ensemble has been invited to take part in the Ruhr Festival to be held in Recklinghausen, Germany, from mid-June to the end of July. The Volkstheater group, under Leon Epp will present eight performances of Johann Nestroy's light comedy, "Das Haus der Temperamente," from June 22 to 27. The new production of this work, especially prepared for the Vienna Festival Weeks, has a cast of forty-five.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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